(a) how far the mission of the Minister of State for External Affairs to Portugal to secure return of the gold ornaments belonging to Goa was successful; and

(b) what schedule has been worked out for return of the gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 280 Kgs of gold ornaments and other safe custody, articles were handed over by Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) authorities to SBI officials on 30th July, 1991 in the Presence of Minister of State for External Affairs, at BNU Headquarters in Lisbon.

(b) The gold ornaments were flown back to India on 2nd August, '91. State Bank of India, Bombay issued notices in the newspapers on 11th August, in Goa, advising people to lodge their claims with State Bank of India branches. Since 16th August, about 1100 claims have been received by SBI and the process of settlement of claims is under way.

Dual Nationality to Indian citizens of erstwhile british colonies

1361. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to grant dual nationality to Indian Citizens who were originally citizens of British colonies with parents of Indian origin ard such British Passport holders who after getting married to Indian husband renounced their British citizenship owing to the then prevalent rules of having only one nationality and settled in India although their entire family before marriage use to reside in U.K.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): No, Sir.

Deploying of Afghan Mujahiddeen by Pak in Poonch etc.

1362. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSTHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Patriot of 3rd July, 1991 to the effect that Pakistan has deployed Afghan Mujahideens and other guerillas along the line of actual control in Poonch, Rajouri and Uri to aid and abet militancy in J&K; if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to tackle the situation arising therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. There are unconfirmed reports about the assistance being given by some Afghan Mujahideens to the terrorists.

(b) As a part of our efforts to check infiltration and contain terrorism in the State, the Government has already stepped up vigil on the border, dusk to dawn curfew has been clamped in the 5 km belt along the border and line of control, Intelligence set up has been beefed up, Disturbed Areas Act and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act have been enforced in the border districts and there is better co-ordination between the Army, Para-Military Forces and the State Police.

Targets for Criminals in Delhi

1363. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports captioned 'Easy

Targets for Delhi Criminals' which appeared in the Hindu dated July 4, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of old men, women and couples killed by criminals in Delhi during the last three months May to July, 1991, and the steps taken to bring the culprits to book; and

(c) the number of cases in which the culprits have been apprehended and those still at large?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) A news item captioned "Easy targets for Delhi criminals" appeared in the Hindu dated 4th July, 1991. The news item primarily related to the murders of the aged and the elderly people in Delhi.

(b) and (c) In eight cases, two aged men and 6 aged women were murdered by criminals. In 3 of these cases, 4 persons have been arrested. In one case extradition proceedings have been initiated. All efforts are afoot to work out the remaining cases.

Attack on Indian Ambassador at Bucharest

1364. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Ambassador to Romania has been recently shot and injured by sikh militants at Bucharest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the condition of the Indian Ambassador at present;

(d) whether assailants have since been arrested;

(e) which country the assailants belong to;

(f) whether Government propose to prosecute the assailants of Indian Ambassador to Romania according to Indian Penal Code;

(g) if so, give details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether it is also a fact that the activities of the sikh assailants in foreign countries are increasing and lives of Indian diplomats are in danger; and

(i) whether Government propose to strengthen the security belt of Indian Diplomats abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri J. F. Ribeiro, Indian Ambassador in Romania was shot and injured by suspected Sikh militants on 20th August, 1991.

The incident took place in Bucharest at about 1830 hrs (local time) when the Ambassador and his wife were out for a walk close to their residence. One of the assailants, who was travelling in a car, opened fire with a Kalashnikov assault rifle. The Romanian Security personnel accompanying the Ambassador returned the fire following which the assailant fled throwing away his rifle. Simultaneously, three other assailants alighted from the car and opened fire injuring the Ambassador in his right thigh. The security personnel shot dead one of the assailants and overpowered two, one of whom also sustained injury. Mrs. Ribeiro was unhurt. The fifth assailant who was in a separate car also escaped.

(c) The Ambassador is still in the hospital but his condition is improving daily and he has started moving around.